

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby elect the claims of Group II (claims 5, 6 and 8-10; drawn to polypeptides and compositions containing such polypeptides) and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10. The cDNA sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO: 10 is provided in SEQ ID NO: 4.

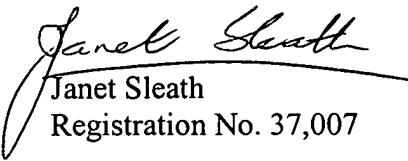
Claims 1-4 and 7 have been withdrawn, and claims 11-16 have been cancelled, from the application as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claim 5 has been amended to replace reference to withdrawn claim 1 with reference to SEQ ID NO: 4. Claim 6 has been cancelled from the application and rewritten as newly added claims 17 and 18. Similarly, claim 8 has been cancelled from the application and rewritten as newly added claims 19 and 20. Newly added claim 18 is drawn to polypeptides comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 75%, 90% or 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 10, wherein the polypeptide has substantially the same functional activity as SEQ ID NO: 10, with newly added claims 20 being drawn to polypeptides comprising at least a functional portion of an amino acid sequence having at least 75%, 90% or 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 10, wherein the polypeptide has substantially the same functional activity as SEQ ID NO: 10. Support for this aspect of the claims may be found, for example, on page 14, lines 10-22 and throughout the specification as originally filed. In claim 9, reference to cancelled claims 6 and 8 has been replaced by reference to newly added claims 17-20.

It is urged that support for all the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed and that none of the above amendments constitute new matter. Applicants also submit that the above amendments are not being made for reasons of patentability but to more clearly recite aspects of the applicant's claimed invention currently of most interest to the assignees of record and therefore do not give rise to prosecution history estoppel.

A request for a five (5) month extension of time is being filed herewith.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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